

SOCIAL REHABILITATION OF THE SUBNORMAL. Herbert C. Gunzburg. (Pp. xvii + 263; figs. 16. 27s. 6d.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1960.

THIS book is yet another reflection of the changing climate of attitudes towards the problems of the mentally subnormal. The author tempers optimism with realism in what he claims can be done for this section of the population. Being a psychologist, his primary concern is not with the niceties of psychiatric diagnosis, but with the study of social inefficiency and the application of the most appropriate measures for the reduction of its effects. The initial chapters are concerned with a statement of the problem and simple explanations of the techniques used in assessment. The author then proceeds to outline a therapeutic programme under three headings, namely work, education, vocation and counselling; these three being interdependent.

This is not a textbook, but a practical guide for ancillary workers interested in this field. It could be read with profit by nurses, medical students and interested laymen. It is the reviewer's opinion that this book would have had a much wider circulation if it had been more cheaply produced. It could have made a valuable contribution to the creation of informed opinion about what can be done to help those in need of special care.

J. G. G.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1958 - 1959. (Pp. viii + 330. 15s. 6d.) London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1960.

PAGES 25-80 of this report, entitled "Some Aspects of Medical Research," are published separately at 3s. 6d. under the title "Current Medical Research," and contain those parts of this report which will prove of general interest. The remainder of the report covers the work, staffing and publications of the various special research groups and individuals supported by the Council. It is perhaps more a record of projects and aspirations than of results, though there is much progress to report in some fields. The outline of the territories covered will interest active research workers.

The review section of current medical research remains, as in previous editions, a masterpiece of clear and lucid exposition and enables anyone to gain some insight of the trends of work in branches of medicine of which he may be largely ignorant. The subjects range from coronary heart disease, chemotherapy and tuberculosis, air in the operating theatre, population genetics, the structure of viruses and the arthropod borne viruses, and perhaps the most interesting accounts are those concerned with the growing knowledge of chromosomal abnormalities in man and the anti-viral agent—interferon.

J. E. M.

A CLINICAL PROSPECT OF THE CANCER PROBLEM. By D. W. Smithers, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R. (Pp. xv + 232; figs. 46. 37s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1960.

THIS is the introductory volume to "Neoplastic Disease at Various Sites." Volumes on tumours of the lungs, bladder and rectum have already been published. It is evident that this book by the editor of the series has been the product of long study and much contemplation.

As the author admits no attempt is made to increase the vast amount of information available, but only to place in clinical perspective some of the knowledge we already have. He has ranged widely over biology as well as medicine. It is admitted that in its pathological aspects the book owes much to the writings of Willis and something to the biology of Child. The natural history of cancer growth is discussed with some emphasis on regression. Chapters are devoted to theories of causation and to injury and isolation and to hormones. The second half of the book is concerned with such varied aspects as prevalence, prevention and early diagnosis, quackery and education and the aims of therapy. While the work contains much of interest and much that will be unfamiliar the picture which emerges lacks unification, and in general will do little to clarify thinking on this great problem.

J. E. M.